DEMOCRATIC

GERMAN REPORT

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"NAZIS TAKING OVER WEST GERMANY" — Dr Otto John

The bloodthirstiest nazis are today taking over in West Germany, Doctor Otto John, former West German intelligence chief told a packed press conference in East Berlin on August 11th.

Dr John, who had been variously reported in the western press as having been kidnapped, drugged and even dead, made a full statement of his reasons for seeking asylum in the German Democratic Republic, and for nearly an hour answered all the questions put him by world journalists.

Dr John declared: "There is a still small voice within us which we often do not listen to. I followed this voice in the fight against National Socialism, and it is this voice which has led me here."

"I made up my mind after deep reflection to come to the German Democratic Republic and stay here because I see here the best chances to work for the reunification of Germany and against the threat of a new war."

"The clever English . . . are striving to find a modus vivendi with the communist half of the world. But the Americans are preparing for war."

"The Americans need the Germans for their war against the East. That is why the bloodthirstiest nazis and militarists are being groomed for office in the West German Republic."

(Full text of Dr John's declaration on page 127)

BOOK THEY TRIED TO BAN

British legal expert Lord Russell of Liverpool has written a book on nazi war crimes, which appeared in London on August 19th. One week before it appeared, he was given the choice of withdrawing his book, or resigning his post as Assistant Judge Advocate General.

The Lord Chancellor, writing to Lord Russell in an attempt to ban the book, wrote:

"The whole treatment of the subject, including the publisher's wrapper (reproduced on this page, ed.) and most particularly the photographs, are such as to stir up hatred of the German people as a whole, and therefore give support to the opinions of those who are most strongly critical of the policy of giving Germany an opportunity, by rearmament or otherwise, of exerting an influence in world affairs."

Lord Russell replied:

"I believe that in the interests of world peace such events should not be so easily forgotten."

Rather than withdraw the book, he resigned his post in the British War Office.

To give readers of GERMAN REPORT an opportunity of judging for themselves, we carry in this issue a very full review of this important book, in the form of long extracts from the book itelf. Now turn to page 131.

EAST GERMAN ELECTIONS IN OCTOBER

All German citizens over 18 years of age in the German Democratic Republic will go to the polls on October 17th to elect a new People's Chamber (parliament).

At the same time they will elect new provincial councils.

Candidates for the election are nominated by the different political parties — Socialist Unity Party, Christian Democrats, Liberal Democrats, National Democrats, Democratic Peasants — and by other organisations such as the Trade Union Federation, Free German Youth, and so on.

Representatives of all these parties and organisations, meeting in Berlin at the end of July, decided that in view of the critical situation in Germany and the danger of a new war it was necessary for all patriots to work even more closely together. In view of this, all the different parties would nominate their best members for a united list of candidates which would be submitted to the electors for their approval at the elections.

The actual selection of the candidates will take place at numerous district conferences and meetings, in which prospective candidates are submitted to a thorough "grilling" by their most active constituents on their suitability. Members of the present People's Chamber who wish to stand for re-election will have to report back to their constituents on the work they have done since they were first elected in October 1950, and will be rejected if their accounting is unsatisfactory.

A very high proportion of the candidates will be outstanding production workers from the factories, and members of peasants' cooperatives. Women and young people under 30 will also figure largely on the lists.

WEST POLICE ARREST ANTI-NAZI VETERAN

West German police arrested Joseph Ledwohn, antinazi veteran and leader of the Communist Party in North Rhine Westphalia on August 6th. He is charged with treason on the grounds that he distributed copies of the Communist Party's "Programme for National Reunification", a legally printed document, two years ago.

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Jeseph Ledwohn has been arrested for alleged treason before. On December 12th 1933, during the nazi era, the Provincial Court at Hamm sent him to prison for 30 months for "treasonable activity against the state". The main charge was that he was a member of the Communist Party, and had fought the nazis.

After the allied occupation of Germany, laws were passed under which persecuted anti-fascists could apply for nazi sentences to be quashed, so that they would not appear on police listings of "previous convictions". Joseph Ledwohn made such an application, and it finally came up for consideration before the Dortmund District Court on April 30th 1954. Instead of quashing the nazi sentence, the court, after a long and involved legal argument, reduced the nazi sentence to 18 months imprisonment. The reduction was of purely theoretical interest, since Joseph Ledwohn had already served the full sentence.

(Some of the details of this case were given in a slightly erroneons form in GERMAN REPORT in its issue of June 11th 1954. The account above is based on the full West German reports of the 1954 court ruling.)

Strike Wave in West Germany

The biggest strike wave since before Hitler hit West Germany at the beginning of August. In Bavaria more than 200,000 metal workers struck for higher wages, and rejected all appeals to return to work pending conciliation attempts. The strike was still in progress as we went to press.

In Hamburg, 15,000 public utilities workers came out solid with a demand for 10 pfennigs per hour increase, and returned after a wage raise of 7 pfennigs per hour had been won.

Other unions with membership totalling over four million were threatening to strike very soon if their claims were not met.

Reason for the strike wave was that rising prices in West Germany have far outdistanced wages.

"Joint Appeal to Big Four" — East German Appeal

The East German People's Chamber has asked the West German Parliament to join in an appeal to the Big Four for a resumption of the negotiations on Germany.

The invitation stated:

"The People's Chamber of the German Democratic Republic addresses the Parliament of the German Federal Republic with the proposal that they should issue a joint solemn appeal to the Four Great Powers asking for the resumption of the interrupted negotiations on Germany, at which negotiations the representatives of both parts of Germany should be equal partners; the Great Powers should be requested not to take any steps, before the conclusion of such a conference, to include one or both of the parts of Germany in any military grouping.

"The People's Chamber addresses a sincere invitation to the Government of the Federal Republic to name plenipotentiary representatives who can work out, together with representatives of the German Democratic Republic, a joint German standpoint on the solution of our vital problems within the framework of European security.

More Jobs than Workers

There is a serious shortage of workers in almost all branches of industry in East Germany, the quarterly report on fulfillment of the Five Year Plan published in Berlin on August 13th stated.

"There is not only a lack of highly skilled workers, but also of unskilled workers in mining, engineering, building and agriculture" the report stated. "In many districts of our Republic there are not enough young people leaving school to fill all the available apprenticeship posts."

The Plan report noted that there had been an overall increase in production of 12.5% in the second quarter of 1954 compared with the same quarter of 1953. Capital investment had been increased very greatly in the food industry (180% increase) and in light industry (127% increase) compared to last years figures.

The plan report also noted an increase of no less than 44% in the number of people attending universities and other centres of higher education compared to 1953.

WHY I WENT TO EAST GERMANY

By Doctor Otto John, Former West German Intelligence Chief

(At a Press Conference in East Berlin, August 11th 1954)

First I should like to make it clear that I myself requested this press conference, because I desire very strongly to speak to a world-wide public. I wish to make it quite clear from the outset that I do not intend to concern myself here with those who have previously intrigued against me secretly and are now doing it openly. This I shall leave to a later date. Whatever lies may be served up against me, the fact remains that my decisions and actions will be guided solely by the convictions I have arrived at as a result of my own experiences and knowledge. I am and I shall remain just as free in spirit and as politically independent as I have always been.

Still Small Voice

Everyone whose conscience has not been totally blunted knows, or at least senses, that in the hectic rush of our times there is a still, small voice within us which we often do not listen to, but which cannot be ignored forever.

This voice made itself heard within me when Frick, as Minister of the Interior in Thuringia early in the 1930's, ordered school prayers to be said with Hitler's name replacing that of Christ. I followed this voice in the fight against National Socialism and it is this voice which has led me here.

I have been accused of being a traitor before. Those who raise this cry now are, curiously enough — or perhaps it is not at all so accidental — the very same people who accused me of treachery and would cheerfully have hanged me ten years ago (when John participated in the 1944 bomb plot against Hitler, ed.)

Those who know me or who have anything approaching a correct idea of me know quite well that I am no communist. The stories which are now being produced about my alleged cooperation with the East in the past years are completely absurd and I consider it beneath my dignity to enter into any discussion of them.

Fate of Germany

I am here because I am concerned for the fate of the German people and because I should never had had such a platform at my disposal anywhere in the West — least of all in the West German Federal Republic. The restoration of those forces which once brought National Socialism into power and kept it there is much too far advanced in the Federal Republic for that to be possible.

I made up my mind after deep reflection to come to the German Democratic Republic and to stay here because I see here the best chances to work for the reunification of Germany and against the threat of a new war. Many people in West Germany, even clever and honest people, do not see the dangers which threaten us because they are blinded by the propaganda of the West German Government. After 1945 so many people in Germany claimed that they could not have recognised the danger of National Socialism before 1933. I consider it my duty therefore to warn the German people now, openly and emphatically, of the dangers which threaten us today. After the first shot has been fired it will be too late.

When I took over my office in the Federal Republic in December 1950 I had the illusion that I was cooperating in the work of building up a new Germany which, cleansed of National Socialism, would give all Germans the chance to develop their lives in peace. Instead of that we have a partitioned Germany which threatens to be the battlefield in a new war between East and West, which would not only bring untold new sufferings upon us, but would actually destroy the very basis of existence of our people as a nation.

Communism is a reality, whether we like it or not, a reality for almost half of the people alive in the world today. The idea — or the dream — of being able to wipe out communism again is as stupid as Hitler's belief that he could wipe out Christianity.

"Clever English"

The clever English have recognised this and are striving to find a modus vivendi with the communist half of the world. But the Americans refuse to recognise it. They are preparing for war, because they believe that they can, sooner or later, sweep communism off the face of the earth by means of a new crusade against the East.

Within this development the West German Government has become a tool of American policy in Europe through the treaties of Bonn and Paris. The Americans need the Germans for their war against the East. And for this purpose the most welcome people are of course those who not only have learnt nothing from the German catastrophe, but who have also been waiting ever since for the day when they can take their revenge for the defeat of 1945. That is why the bloodthirstiest Nazis and militarists are being groomed for office in the Federal Republic.

One of the members of the West German government is a certain Minister Oberlaender, who carried out Hitler's "Germanisation policy" in Poland — those barbaric measures which have blackened the reputations of all decent Germans in the world.

Secretary of State Ritter von Lex, shocked by the fact that a leading Nazi like Oberlaender was in the government, confided to me not long ago: "It seems that the Nazis have taken some big steps here already". But who dares to say so openly in the Federal Republic? Of course, Herr Oberlaender has thrown the real democratic officials out of his ministry and replaced

them by his Nazi colleagues from the Hitlerite Ost Ministerium (Eastern Ministry).

Everywhere in the government, in economy, in industry, in the universities, wherever one looks, the Nazis are back again; with them the spirit which led the German people into total catastrophe has come to life once more. Now the amnesty has given all those Nazis who had gone underground in 1945 to escape just punishment the chance to rehabilitate themselves.

It is simply grotesque that in the Federal Republic today a Dr. Leverkuehn heads the European Union, which is supposed to improve French-German relations — a former National Socialist who proclaimed his Nazi spirit through his book, "Posten auf ewiger Wache" (Sentries on Eternal Guard), in which the hero was one of the participants in the Hitler Putsch of 1923.

Bitter Mockery

It is a bitter mockery that such a man today makes a business of German-French understanding, after he himself had propagated and strengthened the spirit which brought so much suffering to the French people. Last year Dr. Leverkuehn did not even hesitate to invite the French fascist Maurice Bardèche to speak before the European Union in Hamburg. You can judge from this what they mean in Bonn by French-German understanding.

I also know quite well that Naumann and Achenbach, joined by Ambassador Abetz on his release from French imprisonment, are busily pushing forward their renazification plans. They are steadily placing their Nazi friends in more and more key positions. When Naumann was arrested in January 1953 by the British authorities the West German government took great pains to minimise the dangers of a revival of National Socialism. Naumann has not yet been brought to trial because the West German government has no interest whatever in really wiping out National Socialism; the unconverted Nazis are needed again today for the crusade against the East.

Even the Free German Party, (FDP), with whose genuinely liberal forces I feel myself most closely allied, has been infiltrated by Nazis. It is no longer a secret that the Free German Party in North Rhine Westfalia is riddled with and controlled by Nazis. The fact that Herr Arnold nevertheless took them into the government of North Rhine Westfalia shows how strong a pressure these unconverted Nazis can already bring to bear. Today their slogan is: "Let us win power legally once again."

Adenauer's Welcome

Wherever such Nazis establish themselves again the militarists are welcome. Field Marshal von Manstein was hardly out of Werl prison when he was demonstratively and officially received by Dr. Adenauer.

These Field Marshals and generals, who along with Hitler have already led our people into total catastrophe, are not only free again, but also draw handsome pensions. Nobody would grudge them reasonable support from the taxpayers' money if they had learned a lesson from bitter experience and were willing to help in the peaceful reconstruction of Germany. But when a former General like Herr Ramke, who now draws a pension bigger than the salary of an active ministerial director, repeatedly agitates in speech and in print against democracy and especially against France, and holds both up to scorn, then something must be done.

I have repeatedly draw the attention of the authorities to this. Nothing has been done.

To give another example, Herr Kesselring is already appearing in courts of justice as an "expert witness" to defend officers who, as fanatics of the Hitlerite "no surrender" policy, had innocent people executed because they resisted the insane orders of such "no surrender" fanatics.

The former General von Manteuffel, who is in the West German Parliament as a Free German Party deputy, was, according to one of his closest friends, a 100% Nazi. This friend of Manteuffel, a Cologne banker, found a good position for Manteuffel on the understanding that he would never engage in any political activities. Herr von Manteuffel gave his word — and broke it.

The former General Trettner, who for the time being operates in the background in the Soldiers' Leagues, is one of the officers who have never made any bones about the fact that they remain what they always were: fanatical followers of their Fuehrer. An old and proven anti-Nazi general told me this in a talk which I had with him about the Soldiers' Leagues and their attitude.

It is nothing short of a catastrophe that a man like Zehrer, one of the most effective propagandists of National Socialism, today controls one of the biggest daily papers again ("Die Welt", Hamburg, ed.). But the "Tat-Kreis" ("Action Circle"), in which Zehrer played an active role, is being revived in other ways too.

Claus Mehnert, who comes from the same circles as Zehrer, played a decisive part in composing the foreign policy speech for the Party Congress of the Christian Democratic Union. This shows what spirit controls the CDU, which also practically wrote off the reunification of Germany at its Party Conference in Cologne this year.

Incorrigible Nazis

The steady encroachment of the incorrigible Nazi elements in the Federal Republic is the logical consequence of Dr. Adenauer's policy, which relies first and foremost on those circles which already wished to "wipe out Bolshevism" under Hitler.

This encroachment is not being achieved through the establishment of a party on the lines of Hitler's Nazi Party, but by following Naumann's instructions and systematically infiltrating the coalition parties, and above all because Dr. Adenauer's government, in its stupid ignorance of world trends, has in fact taken over and continued the aggressive policy of Hitler towards our neighbours.

While innumerable victims — widows and orphans — of the Nazi terror are eking out a miserable existence, others, like Herr Ministerialrat Sauer, although not a hair of his head was touched during the Third Reich, receive thousands of marks and other privileges as reparations.

The degree of remilitarisation of the Federal Republic is best shown by the Blank Office (camouflaged West German War Ministry, ed.) and the Gehlen Organisation. The Blank Office and the Gehlen Organisation employ SD (Nazi espionage, ed.) and SS leaders in their big staffs, men who stood in judgment over German resistance fighters or simply murdered them.

Here there is shelter for all those who fought for Hitler to the bitter end and cannot yet play a prominent public role or do not want to do so until they can put on their Hitler medals again. In their ranks resistance fighters are despised as men who broke their oaths. General von Gersdorff, who has proved himself as a resistance fighter, is not accepted in the Blank office on the grounds that "he is one of the men of July 20th." (the date of the 1944 anti-Hitler bomb plot, ed.)

I am far from wanting to join in a hunt against former soldiers. As far as the Nazis are concerned I am of the opinion that those who have learnt their lesson from the catastrophe and who have really changed should not be condemned and should take their full and equal share in the building up of a peaceful Germany. But the atmosphere of the Federal Republic is tuned to a revival of National Socialism and militarism. This development has only become possible because the Americans, in their positively hysterical obsession with the fear of communism, can find no other way out than to prepare their crusade against the East.

Wars do not break out of themselves — like storms. They can and are always made by man. But that also means that they can be prevented by man. We Germans have a vital interest in preventing a new war from breaking out in or over Germany. But it is above all our task to do everything to make it impossible to misuse the German people again for new war adventures.

The one-sided attachment of Germany to the American "policy of strength", which Dr. Adenauer pursues, will lead inevitably to a new war on German soil. From such a war all that can possibly be left over of Germany is a wasteland of radio-active dead soil.

The whole of the western world was infected with fear psychosis first by Hitler and now by the USA. Hitler already confused, frightened, deceived and finally overpowered the German people with this fear of communism before he took over power. By holding up the horror of communism Hitler justified the attack on Russia, thus supposedly warding off the supposed imminent attack of the Red Army. We are living today through the results of this act of heroism — and that of his field marshals.

But the legends of Hitler and Goebbels about the dangers of Bolshevism are just as alive today in West Germany as in 1933 and 1941. They are of course a welcome means for Adenauer and the rehabilitated Nazis to mislead and frighten our people exactly as in 1933.

In order to lay these legends and to stand up openly against this hysterical fear psychosis, I have come myself into the midst of this fearsome, frightening communist world. Not a hair of my head has been touched or will be touched. All those who have always been or are again frightened by the fearful ghost of communism and persist that Hitler was right, can believe me in this.

When I was in America in June this year it became absolutely clear to me that there is only one fate for us Germans within the framework of American policy: German soldiers for the crusade against communism in Europe. "Germans to the front!" That is the American slogan for us Germans.

"We Can Stop War"

But war can still be prevented if we refuse to carry out the American plans. However, it is also necessary to reveal the background of the Bonn rearmament policy. Dr. Adenauer and those militarists who are still working in the background see in EDC merely an instrument to build up a strong German Wehrmacht which will sooner or later, through its practical preponderance, absorb the other EDC contingents — including the French army — so that France and Western Europe will once more be delivered up to German militarism.

If this aim is achieved, then the EDC treaty will be torn up in the fashion we know so well. General staff officers, like Colonel von Bonin, hardly bother to hide this any longer.

I will make no secret of it and declare here openly that a number of German generals, who have learnt nothing from the past, want to make tactical use of EDC by transferring German units to other EDC countries to reduce these countries to subservience. This is absolutely within the realms of possibility, because according to the EDC treaty there are to be no defence lines between EDC countries. The ever increasing activities of the Gehlen organisation in France are in preparation for this.

All this means that a new attempt is being made to carry out the policy of Hitler and his general staff, which aimed at waging war in the East on a basis of a militarily coordinated West. Because I was exactly informed about this I could no longer stay in West Germany without being further involved and thus making myself guilty before the German people.

This game is deadly dangerous for Germany and can only end in a new catastrophe. In order to prevent this, I spoke with M. de Noblet, a Frenchman who is engaged in working for an honest understanding with a truly peaceful Germany. In order to ward off the threatening danger I intended also to speak with M. Mendès-France. Now I can only hope that the French people recognise the real significance of EDC and that a real German-French understanding will finally be reached.

But the German people have above all the right to a correct and complete statement from the West German government about the aims of EDC. And that has so far not been made. Dr. Adenauer repeatedly and emphat-

Wehrmacht General: "The world looks better now I have got my old spectacles back."

("Aufwärts", West German Trade Union Youth Paper)

ically stated in his radio address that there are no secret clauses to EDC.

I declare, on the contrary, and on the basis of my knowledge as president of the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution, that there are secret clauses to EDC which Dr. Adenauer tries to keep secret. I hereby demand that Dr. Adenauer immediately make these known to the Federal Parliament and to the German people.

If we wish to live, our task is to set up again by peaceful means a peaceful Germany between East and West. It is simply inconceivable that the German people have not managed to get together nine years after the war and that they take the partition so casually and as a matter of course, like the difference between day and night.

That the Berlin Conference did not lead to a reunification we have to ascribe to the fact that the Bonn government has as yet done nothing towards this end. **If the Germans in the Federal Republic continue to refuse to take our fate in their own hands along with the Germans in the German Democratic Republic, we should not be surprised that the four powers also continue to deal only theoretically with German reunification.**

I know, as you all know, that there are in all strata of society and in all political parties in the Federal Republic people who really long for the reunification of our fatherland. I know that our economy, if it is to survive, needs exchange with the East. Is it not madness that the other west European countries trade with the East while our hands are tied by the embargo lists?

Everything depends now on the active cooperation of us all in East and West to bring about mutual talks, in order to make an end of the impossible situation created by the partition of Germany. This is the task to which I shall now devote myself.

Questions & Answers at Press Conference

Dr Otto John made the statement reproduced above at a press conference in Berlin attended by more than 300 journalists from all parts of the world. The statement was followed by more than one hour of questioning. Here are some of the questions and answers:

"Berlinske Tidende", Copenhagen, Denmark: "Why did you not make a statement like this in a western city like Bonn, Paris, London or Copenhagen?"

Dr John: I have to stay in my own country in order to be really effective. After hearing the facts that I have given you here it should be clear to you that I could not have made such a statement in West Germany without being imprisoned for it.

ADN (East German News Agency): "Please tell us something about your impressions on your visit to America (in June 1954)".

The conversations which I had in the Pentagon with Allan Dulles (US chief of intelligence) and with other leading personalities, and the general impressions received showed me that America is preparing a war, on the basis of what can only be described as an hysterical fear psychosis, and that this war will hit us worst here in Germany.

"Tempo di Milano", Italy: "When did you make up your mind to break with the Bonn Government?"

I have been occupied for some considerable time with the thoughts which finally caused me to come to the German Democratic Republic. On July 20th various things became clear to me here in Berlin, things which I had not seen so clearly before.

"Nationalzeitung", East Berlin: "What do you regard as the next practical steps towards German reunification?"

Representatives of West and East Germany must get together to establish a body which is entitled to speak for the whole of Germany, and which can prepare plans for reunification, and negotiate with the allies.

AMNESTY FOR MURDERERS

Many nazi war criminals who committed their crimes in the final period of the war will be freed under a special amnesty passed by the Bonn Parliament which came into force on July 18th. The law lays down that crimes committed between October 1st 1944 and July 31st 1945 "as the result of official duties . . . or in carrying out an order" will be amnestied if the criminal has not received a higher sentence than three years imprisonment.

Since West German courts have in most cases recently passed nominal sentences of two or three years for even the most frightful war crimes, this means that many prominent war criminals will be immediately released. They include:

Engelbert Michalski, member of the Helm drum-head court martial, which carried out thirty death sentences after the unconditional capitulation of Germany. Michalski was recently sentenced to three years imprisonment.

SS General Gutenberg, recently sent to prison for 30 months for shooting the Lord Mayor of Aachen in autumn 1944.

In addition, the new law assures freedom from prosecution to all persons living under false names, providing they declare themselves before the end of 1954. Many thousands of prominent nazis and SS men have been living under false names since the end of the war, in order to avoid detection and prosecution.

On the other hand the new amnesty law specifically exempts from the amnesty persons charged with treason and membership in illegal societies. These are the legal paragraphs which have been mainly used to prosecute members of the peace and progressive movements in West Germany.

SS Officer Appears, Gets Pension

A West Berlin textile salesman known as Werner Horster appeared before the West Berlin court in Moabit in the first week of August and applied to be allowed to take back his real name — Goetz von Bilsheim.

During the nazi period Bilsheim had risen to the rank of major in the SS, and had served in the Gestapo in the city of Aachen.

At the end of the war, fearing punishment as a war criminal, he issued himself with false papers under the name of Horster. Following the West German amnesty law passed in July, he has now asked for his real name back.

The reason? Because he can, under West German law, now draw a monthly pension of 550 marks (over $100) for the period he spent as Gestapo officer.

THE BOOK THEY TRIED TO BAN

"SCOURGE OF THE SWASTIKA"

By Lord Russell of Liverpool

Here is a special review of the important new book "The Scourge of the Swastika", published in London by Cassells on August 19th at 15 shillings.

Today, at a time when there is agitation in many countries to put the guns back in the hands of nazi generals, and when West German school children are being taught that the war crimes trials were unjust, such a book is extremely salutary.

The special review on these pages takes the form of extensive extracts from the book in Lord Russell's own words, and two of the photographs which, as we note on the front page, the British Lord Chancellor found unsuitable:

This book is intended to provide the ordinary reader with a truthful and accurate account of many of the German war crimes. It has been compiled from the evidence given and the documents produced at various war-crime trials, and from statements made by eye-witnesses of war crimes to competent war-crime investigation commissions in the countries where they were committed.

During the Second World War, war crimes were committed by the Germans on an unprecedented scale. They were part and parcel of the Nazi conception of total war and were carried out in pursuance of a preconceived and preconcerted plan to terrorize and exploit the inhabitants of invaded and occupied territories and to exterminate those elements among them who might be found most inimical to German conquest and Nazi domination.

The enslavement of millions and their deportation to Germany, the murder and ill-treatment of prisoners of war, the mass executions of civilians, the shooting of hostages and reprisal prisoners, and the 'final solution' of the Jewish question were all the results of long term planning.

This has been proved beyond doubt and the Germans themselves have provided unchallengeable evidence in the records, returns, inventories, orders and other documents, all carefully preserved, which fell into Allied hands after the surrender of the German forces in Europe.

For when they employed prisoners of war on prohibited work the Germans rendered returns to the appropriate army formation; when they looted they made immaculate inventories of their booty; when they gassed Jews and others they sent detailed reports to the Reich Security Head Office; when they shot hostages they posted up lists on public buildings 'pour encourager les autres'; when they conducted painful and disgusting experiments on unwilling inmates in their concentration camps they made careful case-notes. As fast as they committed these crimes so, with characteristic thoroughness, they collected and tabulated documentary evidence of them.

And how were these criminal plans put into execution? The German High Command and the General Staff cannot escape all responsibility . . . The full weight of the pyramid of the German Officer Corps, with that military Yes-man Keitel at its summit, was right behind Hitler. These men aided and abetted him in planning and waging aggressive war, and in committing war crimes and crimes against humanity without number.

(In six separate chapters Lord Russell gives examples of the various classes of war crimes committed by the nazis. Some typical cases are quoted below.)

War Crimes on the High Seas

Instructions regarding the abandonment of the crews of sunk merchant ships first appear to have been issued in May 1940. Standing Order No. 154 of the U-boat Command contained the following:

'Do not pick up men or take them with you. Do not worry about the merchant ship's boats. Weather conditions and distance from land play no part. Have care only for your own ship . . . we must be harsh in war. The enemy began the war in order to destroy us, so nothing else matters.'

Ill-Treatment and Murder of Prisoners

In September 1944 parties of paratroopers from the (British) Special Air Service Regiment were being dropped in the Vosges mountains whence they operated to disrupt enemy rail communications in Eastern France. One such party, which consisted of an officer and ten men, was hiding in a small village called Raon l'Etape when it was attacked and . . . the whole party was taken prisoner . . . The next week all the prisoners were taken to a selected spot in the surrounding country, made to dig their own graves, and then shot. In 1945 their bodies were discovered by a British War Crimes Investigation Unit, and exhumed. Each prisoner had been shot in the back of the neck.

WHY I PUBLISHED MY BOOK

by Lord Russell

Many people will read for the first time a true account of the crimes committed by the Germans in the last war when my book "The Scourge of the Swastika" is published next week.

Many more, who did read about these crimes when the Allies uncovered them, will be astonished to find that their memories are so frail that they could forget such terrible events so quickly.

I believe that in the interests of world peace such events should not be so easily forgotten.

So when I found that my own friends were forgetting the lessons of Belsen and Buchenwald, or were finding them difficult to believe after a lapse of only a few years, I decided to write this book.

(From the "Daily Express", London, August 12th 1954.)

BEFORE...

Warsaw Ghetto:
The people are driven from the shelter of the bunkers

In the little village of Popovka in the Tula region, German troops drove 140 Red Army prisoners of war into a barn and set fire to it, and near Leningrad the Germans in the course of their retreat used explosive bullets to kill 150 Soviet prisoners of war whom they had first beaten and tortured. They then mutilated the bodies.

Ill-Treatment and Murder of the Civilian Population in Occupied Territory

It was during the month of October 1941 that the 'executions of Châteaubriant and Bordeaux' took place. On 21st October the following notice appeared in the newspaper 'Le Phare':

'Notice. Cowardly criminals in the pay of England and Moscow killed the Feldkommandant of Nantes yesterday morning by shooting him in the back. So far the assassins have not been arrested. As expiation for this crime I have ordered that fifty hostages be shot to begin with. Because of the gravity of the crime, fifty more hostages will be shot in case the guilty should not be arrested by midnight the 23rd October 1941'.

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One of the war crimes which will longest be remembered was the destruction of the village of Lidice, in Czechoslovakia, and the massacre of a large number of its inhabitants as a reprisal for the shooting by partisans of the Protector of Bohemia and Moravia, Reinhard Heydrich.

... When day dawned on 10th June, 1942, all the men of the village were collected in the barns and stable yard of one farm and from there were led into the gardens and shot in batches of ten. The shooting went on until 172 male adults had been killed. The executioners were then photographed with the corpses at their feet, like the members of a pheasant shoot with their bag.

A number of the women were taken to Prague and shot there. The remaining 195 were sent to Ravensbrueck Concentration Camp, where 42 died of ill-treatment, seven were gassed, and three were never seen again. Four women with newly born babies were also taken off to a concentration camp after their babies had been murdered.

All the children were separated from their mothers a few days after the destruction of the village. Ninety of them were taken to a concentration camp at Gneisenau and have never been seen again. The younger children were taken to a German hospital in Prague and after being examined by 'racial experts' ...those who passed this pseudo-scientific test were sent to Germany to be brought up as Germans under German names. All trace of them has been lost. Those who failed were sent to Poland for 'special treatment', i. e., extermination in the gas chambers of Treblinka.

(After a bomb incident in Rome on 23rd March 1944) ... the incident had been reported through the usual military channels to Hitler's headquarters, whence orders were at once received by Field-Marshal Kesselring to shoot within twenty-four hours ten Italians for every German policeman killed... The number finally put to death was 335. It included an old man of seventy, a boy of fourteen and a half, one man who had already been acquitted by a German court and, for good measure, fifty-five Jews, none of whom had any connection with the partisans and some of whom were not even Italian nationals.

At the trial of Field-Marshal Kesselring in the Tribunale di Giustizia in Venice in February 1947... he was found guilty on all charges and sentenced to death by shooting, but the sentence was commuted by the confirming officer to one of life imprisonment and he was released in 1953 'as an act of clemency'. He is now President of the Stahlhelm.

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From the moment the German troops entered Russia until the last Nazi had been driven out, from the Russo-German border to Smolensk, from Smolensk to Stalingrad, from Stalingrad to the Crimea, and from thence to Kharkov, wherever the German soldier or the SS man set foot, crimes of unimaginable brutality were committed against old men, women and children in their thousands. The paraphernalia of murder was extensive, the technique varied, but it was patently organized and directed at a high level.

This wholesale slaughter was not the result of the excesses of undisciplined German units or formations,

"UNFAIR TRIALS"

"The German people have a critical attitude towards these (war criminal) trials, since they are convinced that many of the sentences were unjust, owing to the fact that the prosecutors and judges were still under the influence of hate propaganda..."

From "Geschichtsbuch für Real- und Mittelschulen" (History Book for Grammar and Secondary Schools) Part V page 144, published by Ernst Klett-Verlag, Stuttgart, West Germany 1953.

still less of individual officers and soldiers, but was the considered policy of Hitler's cabinet deliberately planned before the outbreak of hostilities and faithfully carried out in obedience to orders.

Slave Labour

The Nazi slave labour policy had two objects; one was to use foreign labour to maintain the impetus of the German war machine; the other, a logical outcome of the Nazis' racial doctrine, was to weaken by extermination 'inferior' peoples. It was never the intention that the majority of these deportees should ever survive their ordeal and return home. They were transported from their homes and their countries in conditions usually considered quite unsuitable for cattle; they were crowded together in filthy quarters; they were overworked and underfed, and when they were no longer fit to work but refused to die, they were sent to a concentration camp where they were gassed and their bodies cremated in the camp ovens.

Concentration Camps

Long before the invasion of Poland in 1939 the concentration camp system was in full swing within the Reich, and under Hitler its organization had been perfected and its methods tried out and practised upon his fellow countrymen in time of peace.

By the Presidential Emergency Decree of 28th February 1933 (Hitler lost little time in such matters) 'Schutzhaft' or protective custody was introduced into the legal system of the Third Reich. Anyone who gave the slightest sign of potential active opposition to the new regime could thus be put out of harm's way, and by these means, during the next six years, thousands of Germans were thrown into concentration camps for 'treatment', many of them never to regain their freedom.

During the war, on the lowest computation, twelve million men, women and children from the invaded and occupied territories were done to death by the Germans. At a conservative estimate eight million of them perished in German concentration camps.

Auschwitz: We know that not less than 3,000,000 people were put to death at Auschwitz, 2,500,000 of them by means of the gas chambers.

All the belongings (of the prisoners) were confiscated and stored... In this camp were thirty-five special buildings for sorting and storing these belongings, and it will convey some idea of the quantity of property confiscated if it is realized that although the Germans succeeded in burning, together with their contents, twenty-nine of these stores before they evacuated the camp, the following articles were found in the remaining buildings after the enemy had retreated — 348,820 suits; 836,255 women's complete outfits; 5,525 pairs of women's shoes; thousands of tooth and shaving brushes and spectacles; all kinds of kitchen utensils, and even artificial limbs.

Ravensbrueck: The main camp contained only women, and from the time of its inception until it was overrun by the Red Army in its advance westward, over 123,000 women were interned there. All these were interned without previous trial and ninety percent were allied nationals. At least 50,000 perished there and many thousands more doubtless met their death elsewhere on transfer to other camps.

WAR CRIMINALS RELEASED

"Bonn, Aug. 5 (A.P.) — The British today released three Nazi war criminals, reducing to 60 the number held in their prison at Werl.

"The freed men are Walter Schenk, Karl Totzauer and Karl Wiedemann, all convicted of being involved in the killing and ill-treatment of Allied nationals in Nazi concentration camps.

"They were released on recommendation of the joint British-German board which is reviewing the sentences of the Werl prisoners."

New York Herald Tribune,

August 6th 1954.

...AFTER

A waggon-load of corpses at Buchenwald

Apart from those who were murdered, the main reasons for this terrible death rate were undernourishment, overwork, exposure, overcrowding, complete lack of sanitation, and systematic brutal ill-treatment by the camp staff.

The prisoners were so starved that they ate raw potato peelings and bits of cabbage which they found lying on the ground near the cookhouse... The inmates were expected not only to exist, but to work ten or eleven hours a day. Work went on day and night, with a double shift of about eleven hours each. Reveille was at 5.30 a.m. and roll call at 7 a.m. This generally lasted two hours during which all the inmates had to stand to attention in the open and in all weathers both winter and summer.

One of the inmates of the camp in April 1945 was Odette Sansom (who was awarded the George Cross for her services) and she could see the (crematorium) building from the window of her cell. The ovens were working day and night from the latter part of 1944 and Mrs. Sansom could hear the doors being opened and shut and people screaming.

The 'Final Solution' of the Jewish Question

Steps were taken immediately the Germans had successfully completed the invasion of a foreign country, or had occupied a considerable part of it, to put into force the requirements and restrictions which were already applicable to Jews in the Reich... The next manoevre was to segregate all Jews into ghettos.

The question brooked no delay and was regarded by all Gauleiters (nazi

district governors, ed.) as of the utmost priority. Indeed Hans Frank, the Governor-General of Poland, made this apologetic note in his diary: 'I could not, of course, eliminate all lice nor all Jews in only a year, but in the course of time this end will be attained'.

One of the largest ghettos was in Warsaw. It was inhabited by 400,000 Jews. In April 1943 the liquidation of this ghetto was begun and SS Major-General Stroop was able to report to his superiors on 16th May that the Warsaw ghetto was no more. On the title page of his report of this 'Grossaktion', or major operation, was inscribed in decorative Gothic lettering, the words, 'There are no more Jewish dwellings in Warsaw'.

Some seventy-five pages in length, the report gives a day-to-day account of the action. The following are extracts from it:

'The resistance put up by the Jews could be broken only by the relentless and energetic use of our shock troops by day and night... I therefore decided to destroy the entire Jewish residential area by setting every block on fire... a great number of Jews who could not be counted were exterminated by blowing up sewers and dugouts... Only through the continuous and untiring efforts of all involved did we succeed in catching a total of 56,065 Jews whose extermination can be proved...'

SS Brigadefuehrer Major-General Stroop appears to have been well satisfied with the result of his 'Grossaktion'. In order that there should be a permanent record of his gallantry on that occasion which he could show to his relatives and friends and pass round the table after the annual dinner of the 'Stahlhelm', he inserted in his photograph album a number of snapshots taken in Warsaw during the great 'battle'. These were found in his possession when he was arrested by the United States Military Police.

*

This dreary catalogue of murders could be continued but it would always be the same old story. Registration, segregation, humiliation, degradation, deportation, exploitation and extermination.

The murder by the Germans of over five million European Jews constitutes the greatest crime in world history. That the total Jewish population of Europe was not exterminated is due solely to the fact that the Nazis lost the war before they could bring their 'final solution of the Jewish question' to its logical conclusion.

It may well be that it is because all this slaughter took place at a time when the world was preoccupied with battle, murder, and sudden death that its enormity has never been generally recognized and has so soon been forgotten.

Public Lending Libraries in East Berlin

By Joan Becker

There are at present 82 free lending libraries run by the city government in East Berlin and the number increases every year. These libraries are regarded as an important part of popular education and they receive generous financial support, the extent of which can best be judged from the fact that each library is in a position to buy a hundred new books every month and to employ three qualified and three student librarians.

This big staff is needed because the work is by no means confined to the routine jobs of buying and lending out books, cataloguing and so on.

I serve on the Readers' Committee of our lending library in the Schoenhauser Allee, one of the twelve in the Prenzlauer Berg district, so should like to describe what goes on there.

Our library has four big show windows, two of which display new novels, travel books, new editions of the classics, and some books on science and technology; one shows books on music and one shows children's books.

Books on show are changed frequently, and a continual effort is made to link them to current events; for instance, anniversaries of famous authors or scientists, special days like International Women's Day and Children's Day, or important national and international events, are made the occasion for special book displays, and one hardly ever passes the windows without seeing grown-ups and children looking them over.

The three big rooms of the library itself are lined with books and are pleasantly furnished; small tables with reading lamps and comfortable chairs are in all corners. There are always flowers, too, and the big centre table holds all the latest newspapers and magazines. The piano is a necessary addition to the monthly reading evenings and to the music library, which was started only a few months ago and already contains over 1200 volumes of music, books on musical theory and biographical works.

A few days ago, our librarians gave a combined musical and literary evening, which was attended by about sixty regular readers. With the help of the Readers' Committee and some musical friends, they had worked out a delightful programme of readings of poetry and prose related to the musical works performed.

This was one of the regular monthly evenings which are intended to help readers to broaden the scope of their reading. During the past year readings have been built up round all sorts of subjects: "Love and Marriage: Then and Now"; "Humour and Satire from Many Lands"; "What books shall we buy our children for Christmas?"; an author's evening, when the young writer Kurt Huhn came and talked about his work and discussed some of his ideas for a future book, and an evening devoted to writers from East and West Germany.

This week they are reading about travels through Germany, a special programme in tune with the summer holiday mood. This programme will also be given on another evening for our local group of the Women's Democratic Federation. We got our librarians to do this once before last year, when they had such a

successful programme of readings on Karl Marx that they were asked to give it several times for different groups.

They did not attempt to go into Marx' theoretical works, but concentrated on extracts from letters and memoirs about his wife and children, his life in London, walks on Hampstead Heath, his friendship with Friedrich Engels and so on.

Our local library has 1200 regular adult readers, who have over 7000 books to choose from, and the 600 children have 3000 books. But many more children benefit from the children's library, because of the regular fortnightly afternoon readings which are attended by many who do not actually borrow; my two children go there very often in the winter with the children from the day nursery next door. A kindergarten teacher reads when the librarians are too busy.

Our library also helps in the summer holiday campaign, giving readings on rainy afternoons all through July and August, going out with the children to the day camps round Berlin and arranging little libraries for the resident holiday camps.

Another job is helping a big neighbouring factory to run its library properly; most factory libraries do not yet have qualified librarians and they need help in cataloguing, buying new books and advising readers.

The Reader's Comittee meets once a month, to help with suggestions for evening readings, purchase of new books, or discarding unsuitable ones. The last few weeks we have had a lot of fun working out a literary competition, which includes some really brain-wracking tests; short summaries of books whose titles and authors are to be given. quotations whose sources must be given, unfinished quotations to be given in full, a hair-raising short story composed entirely of book titles which have to be picked out and the authors named, a poem built up of lines out of several different ones which have to be identified.

I myself worked out a world tour, giving names and authors of books action in which takes place in different countries and competitors have to find out what route was taken round the world. One show window will have a number of mixed up book titles and authors which have to be corrected. Prizes will be a six-volume set of Heine's works, a three-volume set of German novels of the nineteenth century and many single volumes.

In our district more than half the books lent out are novels. Older people prefer the classics of German and world literature, but young people are reading more and more books from the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies; about one in every six books lent out today is a translation of a Soviet book.

Our chief librarian told me that when she had the choice of working in a university or in a people's library, she chose a people's library because the daily contact with all kinds of ordinary people and the broad scope of the work appeals to her, although the three years' training is the same for all librarians.

I asked her what happened to careless borrowers, who don't return books punctually. Three weeks is the borrowing period, but it can be extended, of course. People who do not bother to do this or simply forget to return books have to pay 20 pfennigs a week fine. Lost books have to be replaced or the cost refunded.

I think our librarian's attitude about books which get too worn out and tattered and have to be thrown away is exactly right for a people's librarian.

"Our books are to be read and not kept on the shelves", she said. "We don't wring our hands over a worn-out book; we rejoice that it has been through so many hands and has given pleasure to so many readers."

West Germany's Magazines Re-Nazified

(From the "New York Times", August 2nd 1954)

"West German illustrated magazines with far more readers than any other news media delve so extensively into the Nazi period and into World War II that they are a cause of uneasiness to the Western Allies.

"They have been described by a prominent figure in the Bonn Government 'as a nail in the coffin of German democracy'.

"Allied press analysts estimate that, for a while, these pictorials used more cover photographs of Hitler, Goering and Goebbels than they did in the Nazi period. Their articles glorify the exploits in the recent war of German U-boat commanders, air aces and Wehrmacht leaders.

"Brutality in Allied treatment of war criminals is charged. War crimes trials are ridiculed and the West accused of equal excesses.

"The visitor who picks up one of these magazines is startled to see photographs of British or American planes falling in flames, or the marks on the tail of a Messerschmitt fighter indicating 100 Allied 'kills' . . .

"One magazine which ran a series of articles on the life of Goering, is said to have increased its circulation from 50,000 to 600,000 in three months. Its competitors soon followed suit".

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Nominal Sentence for Nazi General

A nazi general has been sentenced by a West German court to a nominal term in prison for murdering a subordinate five days before the end of the war. The court, at Traunstein in the American Zone, was trying Lieutenant General Theodor Tolsdorf for the murder of Captain Franz Holzhey, who on May 3rd 1945, five days before the end of the war, attempted to surrender a field hospital to the advancing allied troops to prevent more suffering for the wounded men. Former Field Marshal Kesselring, himself a convicted murderer, who appeared as a defence witness, said that the murder had been completely justified, since "it was necessary to step up resistance in the last days of the war".

The court sentenced General Tolsdorf to three and a half years imprisonment, and then released him immediately "because his war wounds had made him incapable of serving this term".

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

"Recent news from Berlin gives us the impression that you do nothing there except play cops and robbers all the time, with secret agents disappearing left and right to the accompaniment of music on the zither" a correspondent writes.

Of course the cops and robbers stories, both true and false, get the headlines, but there is plenty of very normal life going on in East Berlin as well. Yesterday, for instance, we went to a birthday party.

(The mention of birthdays reminds me that I cannot recall ever reading a report in the big business press that "birthdays have been banned behind the iron curtain". I offer the idea free to any unscrupulous colleague in West Berlin who is feeling too tired to think out a new lie. He will have to dream up the alleged explanation for himself, however.)

Since the birthday happened to fall on a Sunday, the celebrant, a woman doctor who as a Jewess and a Socialist had to leave Germany in 1933, had asked three or four people to come and spend the day at her little house in the outskirts of Berlin.

As usual we had left the buying of a present until the very last minute, and had to rush round to find something on Saturday afternoon when the shops are very crowded.

The choice was relatively easy, though, for we knew that our friend's husband was giving her a three-speed electric record player, imported from Czechoslovakia, and records would be needed.

We found a good selection of Soviet long-playing gramophone records in one shop, and had to wait our turn while four French officers, one German professor and two British occupation officials made up their minds to buy a Shostakovich symphony, a complete recording of Madam Butterfly, or a record played by great Soviet violinist David Oistrach.

Finally they were all served and we managed to get what we wanted (Shostakovich), and, on normal 78 rpm records, a wild Bulgarian folk song, and also two records of popular Yiddish dance tunes.

In the Stalin Allee, East Berlin's main shopping centre, we found that a textile store had a special display of imported Chinese textiles, and brought a dress-length of cream-coloured crepe-de-chine as well. To top everything off we bought a bunch of long-stemmed roses in one of the flower-shops near our flat (I have just counted them, and there are five within two hundred yards), and hoped they would keep fresh until the next day.

I am glad to say that they did. When we got to the house we found that family presents had already been exchanged. Her eldest son, aged 14, had learned a sonatina by Brahms which he proudly played on the piano, and her younger son of eight had produced his first piece of handicrafts, a wooden shelf for his mother's cacti.

Other guests were soon there, with a huge box of chocolates — always something good to fall back on if you can think of nothing else — books, more gramophone records, since the news of the new record-player had got around, and a set of fine cut-glass goblets: and of course masses of flowers.

The cold lunch (prepared entirely by the celebrant's husband, as he proudly declared), gave a good cross-section through the ever-growing foreign trade relations of the German Democratic Republic, with crab salad (from the Soviet Union), anchovies on toast (from Italy), a fine leg of veal with new potatoes and cauliflower, cherry cake and all the many fruit now in season. To drink we had Moselle wine (trade with West Germany is on the upgrade despite all obstacles), Soviet champagne to mark the occasion, and coffee to top it all off.

I can already hear some readers grumbling away: "That's all very well, but you are writing about doctors and other well-paid people."

Of course at a celebration such as I have described there are a number of luxuries which people here do not eat every day; but apart possibly from the wine and champagne, still very expensive here, there is nothing which I have mentioned (including the presents) which you would not be likely to find at the birthday party of any skilled worker here today.

This is the hilt of one of the 10,000 nazi "daggers of honour" which have been made for export this year by the West German knife firm "Solinger Klingenfabrik B. & A."

The blades of the knives are decorated with the words "Everything for Germany". The Social Democratic newspaper "Neue Ruhr-Zeitung" which disclosed this export deal on July 23rd promptly received an insulting letter signed by the leader of the SA Storm Troop detachment in Bonn, and sealed with the official nazi seal of this organisation.

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